

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/332,046, filed June 14, 1999 ("the '046 Application"). Claims 1-11 and 18-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 12-17, which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in the '046 Application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, have been maintained (of which Claims 14 and 15 have been amended herein). Claims 30-39 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 12-17 are independent.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application.

CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based upon Provisional Application No. 60/112,506, filed December 14, 1998, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

The information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in the '046 application. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office file of that application for copies of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.) Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed

information has been considered, by initialing the appropriate portions of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and returning a copy thereof.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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